

HEALTH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

September 28, 2010

5:30 p.m.

Courthouse

MINUTES:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Rhonda Allen
Commissioner Carol Cook
Commissioner Will Jordan
Commissioner Jeff Phillips
Commissioner Chantho Sourinho
Commissioner Jeff Jordan, C

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ernest Burgess
Teresa Jolly
Harry Gill
Shane Morgan
Don Odom
Gary Clardy
Jeff Sandvig
Becky Shelton

Chairman J. Jordan presided and called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with all members being present at that time.

MINUTES:

"Commissioner Turner moved, seconded by Commissioner Sourinho, to approve the minutes of the last meeting. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

COMMUNITY CARE REPORT:

The Committee was provided a copy of the September 2, 2010 minutes of the Community Care meeting. Following review,

"Commissioner Cook moved, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, to approve the Community Care report as presented. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT:

No one was in attendance at this time.

SPECIAL PROJECTS REPORT:

Teresa Jolly presented the Special Projects report for the use and information of the Committee. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Cook moved, seconded by Commissioner Sourinho, to approve the Special Projects report as presented. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT:

Harry Gill, Gary Clardy and Shane Morgan presented the Board of Education report which was a request for funding construction of a new high school. Chairman J. Jordan suggested the Committee consider the information to be presented and take action at the next Committee meeting. Mr. Gill advised the School Board is in dire straits for a new high school and had originally intended to open a new high school in 2012 but had moved the request back because of the two middle schools built. The Committee was provided current enrollment figures for 6-9 grades at Smyrna, LaVergne and Blackman High Schools. Information on enrollment numbers for the three month funding period from 93/94 was also provided with information on the first month of 10/11.

The Committee was advised Smyrna and LaVergne High Schools are landlocked and cannot support more portables. Blackman High School would have space for more portables. Information was provided on portables at Blackman, Smyrna and LaVergne through the 13/14 school year. The Committee was advised if the School Board does not get a new high school, the County could be looking at \$1,800,000 to \$2,400,000 for portables.

Mr. Clardy advised this is a good economic time to build a school versus waiting two to three years out. \$5,900,000 was saved on the two middle schools from the prior school built. Mr. Clardy advised the County could expect the same or greater savings on a high school. The site was prepped when the other schools were built at the Stewarts Creek site. Mr. Clardy advised if the economy does not improve then inflation cannot be ruled out and contractors are wanting work.

Mr. Clardy advised the Siegel design would be used with some updates with the 3% design fee. Additionally, Smyrna has advised it will not require a building permit or impact fee. Mr. Clardy advised of some recent square footage costs including Bedford County at \$145, Sumner County at \$117, Wilson County at \$123 and Williamson County at \$140 without site costs. Siegel was \$70 per square foot. Mr. Clardy advised he anticipated the new high school to be \$110 per square foot now without a stadium. If the economy improves he would anticipate \$130 to \$140 per square foot.

Mr. Clardy advised it was important to get a design started now as working drawings are needed by the first of the year to be able to open the school August, 2013. This would provide for a bid opening in June, 2011 and construction starting by the end of June.

Commissioner Allen inquired if the School Board anticipated building a technical/vocational high school at some point. Mr. Gill advised the School Board has considered one although they are expensive and all high schools do have vocational classes available.

Commissioner Phillips ask what building request is next and Mr. Gill advised they would find a way to hold off a year on the next request. The addition to Eagleville would be next but Mr. Gill advised he thought they could get by a year or so without an elementary or middle school.

The complete budget for the new high school was estimated to be between \$45,000,000 and \$50,000,000 and \$1,300,000 was needed for the design phase. Mr. Sandvig advised the \$1,300,000 could be done by internal borrowing for now.

"Commissioner W. Jordan moved, second by Commissioner Sourinho, to proceed with the design work utilizing internal borrowing for Stewarts Creek High School."

Commissioner Phillips advised he was uncomfortable voting at this point. Commissioner W. Jordan advised the School Board has determined this is the next site and they are comfortable with designing. Mr. Gill advised the School Board is solid behind this site. Commissioner Cook advised she too would like to digest the information.

Mr. Clardy advised the architect needs to start the floor plan to have time for peer groups to review. Mr. Gill advised there could be 1,000 students in portables in three years if the school is not started.

"The motion to proceed with the design work utilizing internal borrowing for Stewarts Creek High School passed by roll call vote with Commissioners Allen, W. Jordan, Phillips, Sourinho and J. Jordan voting "yes" and Commissioners Cook and Turner voting "no"."

Commissioner Phillips requested information at the Budget Committee on the financial impact in conjunction with current bond issues and obligations.

Mayor Burgess asked when the next school would be requested and Mr. Gill advised the number of students changes plans but he did not feel an elementary school would be requested in the next two years and they would hold off as long as they could.

Mayor Burgess commended the School Board for the simple design, advised it was a good time to build, agreed a high school was a priority and the location was a great choice. Mayor Burgess advised the County can manage the capital costs but the operating costs are a concern and the County has to be prepared to grow new revenue or have a tax increase. Mayor Burgess agreed the core facilities in the current high schools will not continue to support increases in the number of students but the County has to be prepared to get the money if it moves forward with construction. If revenue is not generated, the only source is property tax.

Commissioners Phillips advised new Commissioners especially need to know if the construction will require a tax increase and wanted a clear picture presented. Mayor Burgess advised he thought the School Board would need new money to meet new stringent requirements. Chairman J. Jordan advised it was entirely possible the school year will be extended. Mayor Burgess advised the State has balanced its budget for the past two years off ARRA money and that is now gone so it may be difficult for the State with respect to funding.

Commissioner W. Jordan asked that the Finance Department provide projections to the Commission. Mayor Burgess advised those projections will require some assumptions.

Chairman J. Jordan advised the Commission did previously make a commitment to Eagleville High School to either piggyback on to a new high school financing project or do a Eagleville project. This was just information that Eagleville financing would have to go on the high school financing.

There appearing to be no further business to come before the Committee, Chairman J. Jordan declared the meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

JEFF JORDAN, Chairman